

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MAR DE 00058 220806Z
ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AF-08 ARA-10 EA-09 EUR-12 NEA-10
FEA-01 AID-05 CEQ-01 CIAE-00 ERDA-07 COME-00
DODE-00 EB-08 EPA-04 INR-07 L-03 NSF-02 NSC-05
NSAE-00 PM-04 USIA-15 OES-06 SS-15 SP-02 INT-05
PA-02 PRS-01 OIC-02 /158 W
-----220842Z 035489 /14

P R 220415Z MAR 77
FM USDEL MAR DEL PLATA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0057
INFO USMISSION USUN
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
AMEMBASSY CARACAS

UNCLAS MAR DEL PLATA 0058

PASS WHITE HOUSE FOR DR. BOURNE

PASS CEQ FOR WARREN

CARACAS FOR CODEL GRAVEL

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: UN OCON SENV
SUBJECT: UN WATER CONFERENCE - SIXTH DAY

REF: (A) MAR DEL PLATA 55 (B) MAR DEL PLATA 45 (C) MAR DEL PLATA 29

1. SUMMARY. SIXTH DAY WAS AGAIN, A SURPRISINGLY PEACEFUL DAY, AS MOST DELEGATIONS CONTINUED TO PLAY CONSTRUCTIVE ROLE AND MINIMIZED NON-WATER RELATED POLITICAL ISSUES IN ACCORDANCE WITH WISHES OF SECRETARIAT AND ARGENTINE PRESIDENT OF PLENARY. U.S. APPEARS TO BE VIEWED BY OTHERS AS PLAYING POSITIVE, IF SOMEWHAT LOW-KEY, ROLE. WHETHER THIS TONE WILL BE SUBSTAINED THROUGH END OF CONFER-
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ENCE IS AT BEST UNCERTAIN AS BULLET REMAINS UNBITTEN ON QUESTIONS OF NEW WATER FUND, INSTITUTIONAL REFORM, INCREASED FINANCIAL COMMITMENT BY DEVELOPED COUNTRIES AND PRINCIPLES GOVERNING SHARED WATER RESOURCES.

2. PLENARY. MORNING SESSION HEARD SPEECHES BY, INTER ALIA, SYRIA AND IRAQ, WHICH SHARE EUPHRATES BASIN. SYRIA, AS UPSTREAMER,

WAS MORE SANGUINE IN REMARKS AND STATED ITS BELIEF THAT REGIONAL COORDINATION WITH OTHER BASIN STATES IN "SUCCESSFUL." IRAQ LATER OPENLY COMPLAINED OF UNILATERAL DAM-BUILDING BY UPSTREAM SOURCES STATES SYRIA AND TURKEY, AND CALLED GENERALLY FOR USE OF INTERNATIONAL MEDIATION WHEN BILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS UNSUCCESSFUL. ISRAELI HEAD OF DELEGATION KANTOR DELIVERED ISRAEL'S SPEECH WHICH WAS FOCUSED PRIMARILY ON SPECIAL TECHNIQUES FOR WATER CONSERVATION ARID ZONES. MOST AFRICAN AND ARAB DELEGATIONS ROSE SILENTLY AND LEFT THE HALL AS KANTOR MADE HIS WAY TO THE PODIUM. U.S.-CANADA IJC COMMISSIONER BEAUPRE GAVE A SOLID SPEECH DESCRIBING THE FUNCTIONS AND SUCCESS OF IJC APPROACH, WHICH CONCLUDED WITH RECOMMENDATION THAT OTHER STATES SHARING RIVER BASINS ATTEMPT SIMILAR INTER-GOVERNMENTAL INSTITUTIONAL APPROACH, TAILORED TO PARTICULAR CONDITIONS OF BASIN IN QUESTION.

AFTERNOON SESSION LESS EVENTFUL, BUT HELD NICE SURPRISE IN SPEECHES BY HEADS OF DELEGATION FROM PHILIPPINES AND YEMEN ARAB REPUBLIC, BOTH OF WHOM SPECIFICALLY MENTIONED U.S.G. FOR ITS ASSISTANCE IN WATER RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT EFFORTS IN THEIR COUNTRIES. URUGUAY MADE A FAR REACHING STATEMENT CALLING FOR A STRONG "DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES OF MAR DEL PLATA." IN STRESSING PREEMINENCE OF NEED FOR REGIONAL COOPERATION ON WATER PROBLEMS, URUGUAY OPPOSED ANY NEW UN INSTITUTION, EXCEPT FOR BODY TO COORDINATE WATER-RELATED WORK OF EXISTING UN AGENCIES.

3. COMMITTEE I. COMMITTEE I CONTINUED ITS DRAFTING WORK AND COMPLETED ACTION ON ALMOST ALL AGENDA ITEMS IN A MARATHON AFTERNOON SESSION. ONLY ITEMS PARTIALLY REMAINING INCLUDE ILAND NAVIGATION, FISHERIES, AND NATIONAL-LEVEL RECOMMENDATIONS ON POLLUTION AND INDUSTRIAL WATER USE. CHAIRMAN EXPECTING COMPLETION OF WORK IN UNCLASSIFIED

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TOMORROW'S MORNING SESSION. SIGNIFICANT ACTIONS IN POLLUTION AREA TODAY INCLUDED ENDORSEMENT OF THE "POLLUTER PAYS" PRINCIPLE (E/CONF.70/9 ITEM 77(F)) AND OF NORWAY'S RECOMMENDATION TO "INCREASE EFFORTS" TO MONITOR AND REDUCE "ACID RAIN" (ITEM 77(I)). NATIONAL LEVEL RECOMMENDATIONS ON COMMUNITY WATER SUPPLY SECTION (ITEMS 67 AND 68) APPROVED BY CONSENSUS AFTER REDRAFTING BY LARGE WORKING GROUP. THIS REDRAFT CONTAINS DESIGNATION OF 1978-1988 AS "THE INTERNATIONAL DRINKING WATER SUPPLY AND SANITATION DECADE," AND WILL BE SUBMITTED TO THE PLENARY AS PART OF COMMITTEE I'S REPORT LATER THIS WEEK. THE US DID NOT SPEAK TO "DECADE" QUESTION IN COMMITTEE SINCE NO INSTRUCTION YET RECEIVED, AND WAS ACCOMPANIED IN ITS SILENCE BY VIRTUALLY ALL WESTERN AND EASTERN "BLOC" COUNTRIES. TOMMORROW'S AGENDA INCLUDES THREE RESOLUTIONS, INCLUDING UNESCO-INSPIRED DRAFT ON WATER RESOURCES ASSESSMENT (REFTEL A) AND ARGENTINA'S PROPOSED INTERNATIONAL LEVEL ACTION ON COMMUNITY WATER SUPPLY (REFTEL B).

4. COMMITTEE II. COMMITTEE II CONTINUED PROGRESS IN FINAL REVIEW OF RAPporteur'S REVISED SECTION C OF CONSOLIDATED ACTION RECOMMENDA-

TIONS ON PUBLIC INFORMATION, EDUCATION, TRAINING, AND RESEARCH. MOST NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENT IN THIS REGARD IS CONSENSUS ADOPTION OF U.S.-SPONSORED LANGUAGE IN WHICH RESEARCH ORGANIZATIONS ARE URGED TO GIVE PRIORITY TO USE OF RESOURCES FOR APPLICATION OF RESEARCH RESULTS TO EXISTING PROBLEMS DEMANDING ATTENTION AFTER WHICH BASIC RESEARCH IN HIGH TECHNOLOGY FIELDS SHOULD CONTINUE AS RESOURCES BECOME AVAILABLE.

5. COMMITTEE II DEFERRED ACTION ON INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS AND TOOK UP QUESTION OF TECHNICAL COOPERATION AMONG DEVELOPING COUNTRIES (TCDC) AS RELATED TO WATER RESOURCE MATTERS. PAKISTAN/JAMAICA TABLED A RESOLUTION CALLING FOR THE EXPANSION OF WATER CONFERENCE ACTION RECOMMENDATIONS TO INCLUDE TCDC MATERIAL AND REFERENCES TO 1978 WORLD CONFERENCE ON TCDC PROPOSAL WAS DISCUSSED IN DETAIL, AND AMENDED TO SUIT WESTERN DELEGATIONS' TASTE (SEPTTEL).

THE WORK OF COMMITTEE II MAY HAVE BEEN NOTABLE MORE FOR WHAT IT FAILED TO CONSIDER TODAY THAN FOR WHAT IT ACTUALLY COVERED.
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BANGLADESHI PROPOSAL ON "INTERNATIONAL LEGISLATION" WAS EXPECTED BY ALL TO BE DISCUSSED IN DETAIL, BUT CHAIRMAN ABBAS ABRUPTLY ADJOURNED AFTERNOON SESSION OF COMMITTEE EARLY. BANGLADESH, INCLUDING U.S., ON NEED TO SIMPLIFY PROPOSED RECOMMENDATIONS (REFTEL C), AND MAY BE DOING SOME REDRAFTING THIS PM. IDEA FOR "CODE OF CONDUCT" HAS BEEN DISCOURAGED BY USDEL AMONG OTHERS, AND BANGLADESH HAS STATED THAT IT IS "FLEXIBLE" ON THE QUESTION. BANGLADESH PROPOSAL IN SOME FORM WILL PROBABLY BE CONSIDERED BY COMMITTEE TOMORROW, TOGETHER WITH RAPporteur'S REDRAFT ON DEVELOPMENT OF SHARED WATER RESOURCES.

6. CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE. FIRST (FINALLY) MEETING OF CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE WENT SMOOTHLY UNDER CHAIRMAN OF IVORY COAST, WITH ONLY MINOR REQUESTS FOR CLARIFICATIONS MADE BY SEVERAL MEMBERS. NO FORMAL CHALLENGES TO ANY DELEGATIONS' CREDENTIALS WERE EXPRESSED IN PROCEEDING THEMSELVES.
RAWLS

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition Comment:
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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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